

Operation DENY CLARITY: Making Sense of the Many Balkan Operations

By
TSgt Niklaas A. Waller
Historian, 31st Fighter Wing



Approved for Public Release

UNCLASSIFIED



Preface

As the historian for the 31st Fighter Wing, I receive many inquiries concerning the 31st's involvement in operations over the Balkans. For myself, I have always had trouble keeping the various names of the operations in order and in context. I believe this partly due to the sheer number of operations conducted in the Balkans over the past ten-plus years. However, I feel an even greater factor is the similarity of many of the operation designations, for example JOINT GUARD in Bosnia and JOINT GUARDIAN in Kosovo.

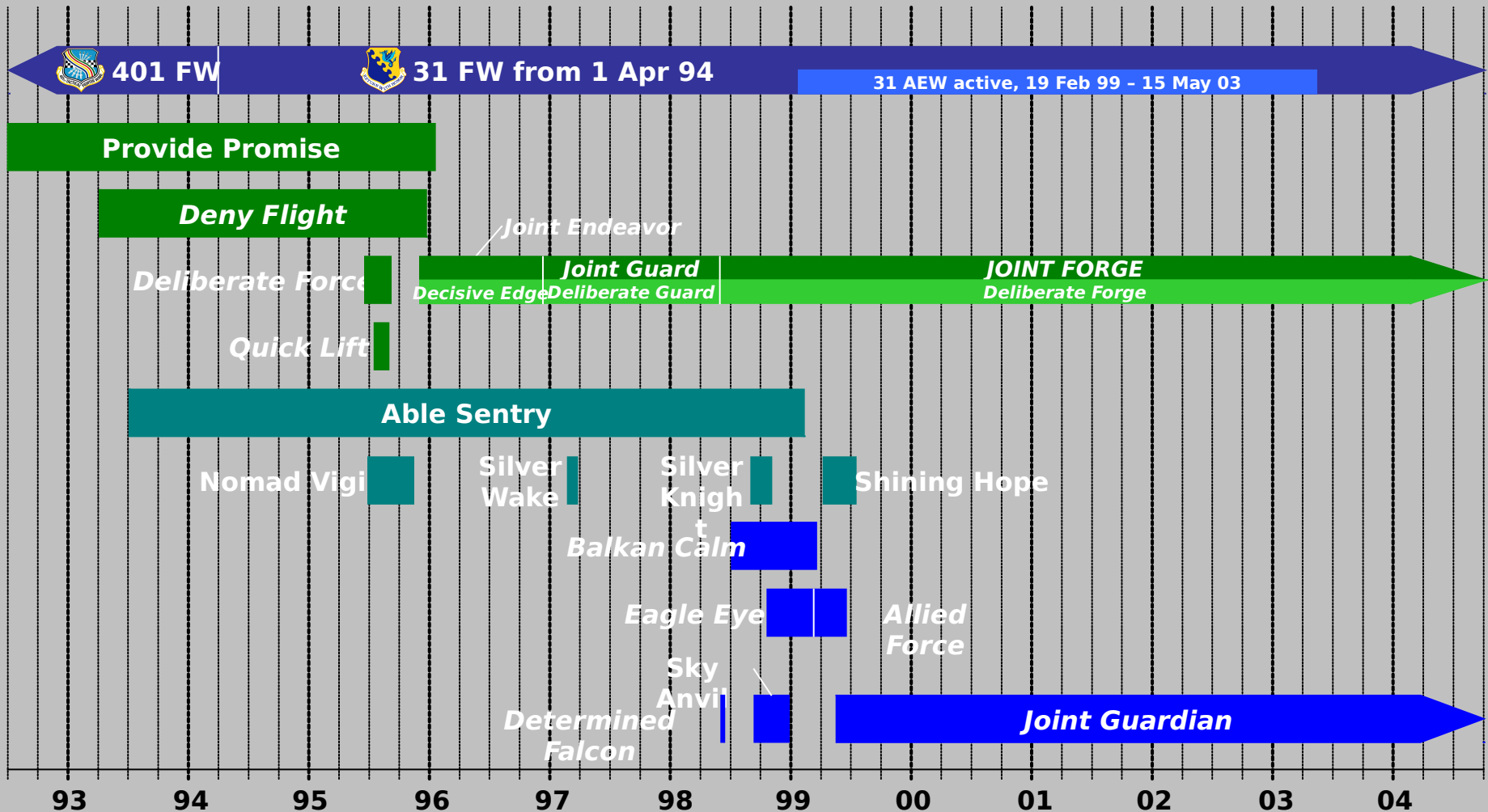
This document attempts to provide clarity to the various Balkan operations via a graphical representation. As well, the timeline provides chronological contexts for the various Balkan operations.

Thanks to Dr. Daniel Harrington, Deputy USAFE Historian, for his table, "Recent USAFE Contingencies," produced in April 2000. The table of Balkan operations included in this document is an extract of Dr. Harrington's work.

NIKLAAS A. WALLER, TSgt, USAF
Historian



Timeline of Balkan Operations



Aviano AB Host Unit

Bosnia & Croatia

Albania & Macedonia

Kosovo & FRY

Italicized names are NATO designations for operations and exercises. Non-italicized names are US designations.

Click on an operation for a brief synopsis.



USAFE Participation in Balkan Operations

| Operation | Dates | Remarks |
|----------------------|-----------------------|--|
| Provide Promise | 3 Jul 92 - 9 Jan 96 | US portion of UN Bosnian humanitarian relief. 4197 US airland sorties delivered 62,801.5 tons to Sarajevo; deliveries by all nations totaled 160,634 metric tons. Over 2,220 US sorties air-dropped 28,748 CDS (Container Delivery System) bundles and 1,185 TRIADS (tri-wall aerial delivery system) bundles between 28 Feb 93 and 19 Aug 94; 380 German sorties dropped 1,527 CDS and 2,819 TRIADS bundles; 263 French sorties dropped 1,319 CDS and 1,313 TRIADS bundles. |
| Deny Flight | 12 Apr 93 - 20 Dec 95 | NATO enforcement of no-fly zone over Bosnia. 42,373 US, 48,890 allied sorties flown. Nicknames initially considered included "Balkan Shield" and "Persuasive Force." Two USAFE F-16s (526 FS) shot down four Krajina-Serb Galeb jets violating the Bosnian no-fly zone, 28 Feb 94. Six F-15Es (492 FS) and six F-16CG (31 FW) took part in NATO's first air strike, 21 Nov 94; attacking Udbina airfield in Croatia. |
| Able Sentry | 5 Jul 93 - 28 Feb 99 | US Army Task Force monitoring Serbia-Macedonia border. |
| Quick Lift [Croatia] | 8 Jul - 6 Aug 95 | NATO Rapid Reaction Force deployment to Croatia. |
| Nomad Vigil | 1 Jul - 5 Nov 95 | Bare-base deployment to Albania in support of Predator Unmanned Aerial Vehicle. |
| Deliberate Force | 29 Aug - 21 Sep 95 | NATO air strikes against Bosnian Serbs. 3,515 coalition combat sorties flown; attacked 338 individual targets within 48 target complexes. Operations suspended 14 September and formally ended 21 September. Led to Dayton Peace Agreement. |
| Joint Endeavor | 5 Dec 95 - 20 Dec 96 | SACEUR peace implementation force (IFOR) mission in Bosnia. AFSOUTH support plan called "Decisive Endeavor," and COMAIRSOUTH support plan called "Decisive Edge." 50,227 coalition sorties flown in Decisive Edge from 20 Dec 95 to 20 Dec 96. |
| Joint Guard | 20 Dec 96 - 20 Jun 98 | Follow-on to Joint Endeavor: NATO Stabilization Force (SFOR) operations in B |
| Deliberate | 20 Dec 96 - 20 Jun | Follow-on to Decisive Edge; COMAIRSOUTH air support of SFOR. Coalition |

Return to Timeline



USAFE Participation in Balkan Operations

| Operation | Dates | Remarks |
|------------------------------|-----------------------|---|
| Silver Wake | 14 - 26 Mar 97 | NEO in Albania following armed rebellion there. 808 people (390 US, 418 other nationals) evacuated (as of 18 Mar) by US Marines; 20 USAF people in JTF. Air Force participation included AC-130s, KC-135s, F-16s. |
| Exercise "Determined Falcon" | 15 Jun 98 | NATO aerial show of force near Kosovo |
| Joint Forge | 20 Jun 98 - | Follow-on to Joint Guard (NATO Stabilization Force [SFOR] in Bosnia) |
| Deliberate Forge | 20 Jun 98 - | Follow-on to Deliberate Guard (COMAIRSOUTH air support of SFOR) |
| Balkan Calm | 4 Jul 98 - 20 Mar 99 | Support of Kosovo Diplomatic Observer Mission (KDOM) and Enhanced Kosovo Diplomatic Observer Mission (EKDOM). |
| Silver Knight | 22 Sep - 29 Oct 98 | Preparations for possible NEO from Tirana, Albania |
| Sky Anvil | 25 Sep - 15 Dec 98 | Preparation for possible NATO air campaign in Yugoslavia. NATO dubbed its preparations for limited air operations or a phased air campaign to enforce UNSC Resolution 1199 regarding Kosovo as "Operation Determined Force." |
| Eagle Eye | 29 Oct 98 - 24 Mar 99 | NATO Kosovo Air Verification Mission (NKVM) verifying compliance with UN Security Council Resolution 1199 and NATO-Yugoslav agreement of 15 October, using US U-2s and Predator. Britain, France, Germany, and Italy also participated. |
| Allied Force | 24 Mar - 20 Jun 99 | NATO air campaign against Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. US participation known as Operation Noble Anvil. Operations suspended 10 June and formally ended 20 June. US JTF-NA activated 31 January; inactivated 20 July. |
| Shining Hope | 7 Apr 99 - 15 Jul 99 | US military support to refugee relief efforts in Albania and Macedonia. |
| Joint Guardian | 11 Jun 99 - | NATO peacekeeping operation in Kosovo. |

[Return to Timeline](#)



From: Elliott Eric S Capt 31 FW/PA
Sent: Thursday, May 27, 2004 3:10 PM
To: Waller Niklaas A TSgt 31 FW/HO
Subject: RE: A: Request Approval for Public Release
You're cleared for release.

//SIGNED//
ERIC S. ELLIOTT, Capt, USAF
Chief of Public Affairs

-----Original Message-----

From: Waller Niklaas A TSgt 31 FW/HO
Sent: venerdì 14 maggio 2004 11.26
To: Elliott Eric S Capt 31 FW/PA
Subject: A: Request Approval for Public Release

Please review the attached document for public release, to include foreign release. All information in the document came from an unclassified document. Thank you.

//SIGNED//
NIKLAAS A. WALLER, TSgt, USAF
Historian, 31st Fighter Wing
DSN 632-7609

DEFEND, DEPLOY, DEFEAT

Return to Cover